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COUNTRY	USSR	REPORT	
SUBJECT	1. Equipment on Soviet Merchant Vessels 2. Regulations Concerning Soviet Merchant Ship Officers and Men	DATE DISTR. 29 April 1955 NO. OF PAGES 2 25X1	
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This is UNEVALUATED
Information.

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. Soviet merchant vessels are not supplied with technical handbooks on radar, because they are only for the use of naval officers. Where there is need for an explanation, the merchant officer concerned is taken to [redacted] naval vessel. 25X1
2. In January 1953, all merchant ships were notified that, by May 1955, they had to be fitted with an extra dynamo and radar platforms, the installation of which could be completed in case of need on a twenty-four to forty-eight hour notice. The capacity and the purpose of the dynamo are not known. [redacted]
3. By May 1955, every merchant ship is also to have its crew quarters enlarged in order to accommodate additional personnel. [redacted] not [redacted] every merchant ship is fitted for degaussing. 25X1
4. Since early 1953, a new regulation has been in force, under which a merchant vessel going into drydock or undergoing repairs, whether for long or short periods, must have part of the repairs carried out under naval instructions. 25X1
5. Certain merchant ship officers are selected to undergo special naval training courses, on completion of which they are earmarked for naval duties in time of war. When a merchant ship officer has taken the courses and served a certain number of years in the merchant fleet, he receives a naval officer's title, which is usually awarded on October Revolution Day. These merchant ship officers would automatically join the Soviet Navy in case of war. The rank which would be awarded in the Navy depends upon their seagoing experience and not upon their rank in the merchant fleet; a second officer with a great deal of experience at sea might be earmarked as a lieutenant commander, while a young first officer might only receive the rank of sub-lieutenant. [redacted] these regulations came into force recently. 25X1

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6. Merchant seamen who enter a navigation or engineer school are given the naval officer's course with naval training; and, after sailing two or three years in the merchant fleet, are given refresher courses which last two or three months. 25X1
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one instance when a naval officer was assigned to a merchant ship for one trip to the West, in the course of which he had no apparent duties on board. 25X1
8. No member of the crew of a Soviet merchant ship is permitted to bring out to the West any money, bank books, State Loan securities, or literature; he may bring publications, such as Pravda, Izvestiya, and Rahva Heral, the export of which is not prohibited. 25X1
9. Under new regulations, in force since 1953, ships' officers are permitted to have a camera and to make a few more purchases in foreign ports. They may now bring a length of cloth home from each voyage; formerly they were allowed to purchase only two lengths a year. 25X1
10. If a crew member has not spent all his foreign currency ashore, he must place it in the ship's safe when he returns on board. 25X1

Comment: The Soviet equivalent for the rank of lieutenant commander is captain third rank (kapitan tretvego ranga). The rank of sub-lieutenant in the Soviet Navy is called junior lieutenant (mladshiy leytenant).

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